

EXHIBIT B

September 11, 2007 Letter from Plaintiff Bruks to Defendant FMW

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September 11, 2007

VIA U.S. EXPRESS AND CERTIFIED MAIL, RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Michael Mittag
Managing Director
FMW, Forderanlagen GmbH & Co.
A-3062 Kirchstetten 100
Postfach 25
Austria

Re: Formal Notice of Published Patent Application
International Application No. PCT/US2006/033729

Dear Mr. Mittag:

Please be advised that Myers & Kaplan Intellectual Property Law LLC represents Rockwood Materials Handling, Inc., with respect to intellectual property counseling and litigation. Please be advised that Rockwood Materials Handling, Inc. is owner and applicant of pending Patent Cooperation Treaty application no. PCT/US2006/033729, entitled "Air Cushion Conveyor Stacker Reclaimer Device and Method Thereof," with international filing date of August 29, 2006, with priority to U.S. Provisional application no. 60/712,325, filed August 29, 2005, and the subject of International Publication no. WO 2007/027696A1, published March 8, 2007. We have enclosed a copy of the published international application. Please allow this correspondence to serve as formal notification of our client's legal position regarding its pending rights in the published subject matter.

As you may know, similar to FMW, our client submitted a proposal to Mr. Gordon Green of Price Companies and to Mr. Jim McGahee of Graphic Packaging International on January 5, 2007, offering terms for providing a Chip Storage and Handling System for installation in Macon, Georgia. It has come to the attention of our client that your company has now entered into a contract to provide such a Chip Storage and Handling System to Price Companies for use by Graphic Packaging, Inc., wherein the System is to be engineered and constructed as an air cushion conveyor stacker reclaimer, the subject matter of our client's pending patent. As is obvious, such manufacture, sale, installation, and use is adverse to our client's pending patent rights and, given the detailed and responsible manner of written and repeated verbal notification provided to both Graphic Packaging International and to Price Companies regarding the patent pending status of our client's technology, such activities would undoubtedly constitute intentional infringement of the resulting patent, when issued, according to 35 U.S.C. §271, with

resulting damages according to 35 U.S.C. §284 including, but not limited to triple damages, interest, and legal costs. Yet further, continued use of the infringing system after issuance of the patent will likely result in preliminary and permanent injunctive relief, according to the principles of equity. Additionally, the provisional rights provided by 35 U.S.C. §154(d) will require payment of a reasonable royalty for these pre-issuance activities. Enforcement via relevant foreign authorities will also be pursued, including but not limited to member states of the European Patent Office, as appropriate.

By this correspondence, you are hereby placed on formal notice that our client has every intention to seek prompt and zealous enforcement of (a) each patent that issues throughout the world from the pending PCT publication, and (b) appropriate provisional rights. Please note that the International Search Authorities for the World Intellectual Property Organization have examined our client's application, and have issued a positive finding for patentability based upon novelty, inventive step, and industrial applicability for all claims, including those directed to the device, the method of use, and the method of installation. A copy of this Written Opinion is enclosed. We therefore have every confidence that the patent(s) that will be granted to our client will claim subject matter substantially identical to that claimed in the published patent application.

On August 31, 2007, Mr. Steven Bennett, President of Rockwood Materials Handling, Inc., was advised by Mr. Gordon Green, Project Manager for Price Company, that no civil or foundation work has yet commenced for the subject conveyors, and that no equipment or materials has been shipped or prepared for shipment, nor was such preparation considered imminent. With regard to your decision to cease and desist from these accused activities, we leave risk assessment and its governance to your sound and personal discretion regarding all unauthorized and potentially infringing manufacturing and sale activities, under penalty of law, and from any future or further acts of public or private sale, or offering for sale, of services and/or goods related to our clients patent pending system and device.

Should you fail to comply with this demand and notice, we must consider, upon issuance of the patent, your continuing actions to be willful and we will advise our client regarding the appropriate legal steps to be taken to enforce such rights.

Please contact the undersigned within ten (10) days from the date of this letter, preferably in writing, to confirm your intent to comply with this request. Thank you for your immediate and considered attention to this correspondence.

Sincerely,
Myers & Kaplan,
Intellectual Property Law, L.L.C.

Robert W. Ward, Esq.

RMW/smd
Enclosures

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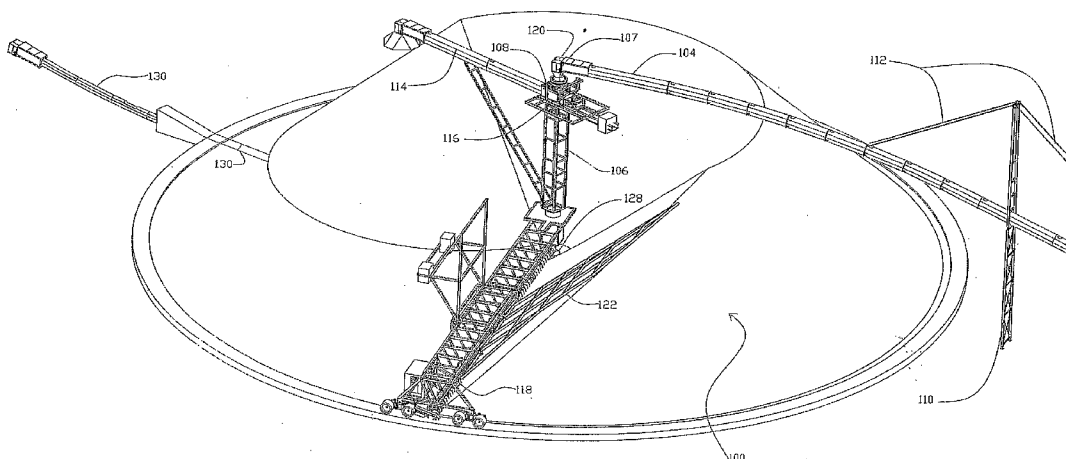
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(54) Title: AIR CUSHION CONVEYOR STACKER RECLAMER DEVICE AND METHOD THEREOF



(57) Abstract: An air cushion conveyor stacker reclaimer device and a method thereof, wherein burial of enclosed air cushion outfeed conveyors eliminates the need for costly, reinforced underground tunnels and walkways, wherein overhead suspension of air cushion infeed conveyors eliminates the need for construction of raised walkways and costly ground support structures, wherein lightweight air cushion conveyor stacker devices eliminate the need for massive counterweights, and wherein the fully exploited method for stacking and reclaiming bulk materials via enclosed tubular components, stacking boom curtains, and/or domed enclosures essentially eliminates adverse environmental impact.

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AIR CUSHION CONVEYOR STACKER RECLAIMER DEVICE AND METHOD THEREOF

Be it known that I, Kevin Hood, residing in Lawrenceville, Georgia, a citizen of the United States, along with co-inventors Bengt Nilsson, a citizen of Sweden and Steven Bennett, a citizen of the United States, have invented certain new and useful improvements in an Air Cushion Conveyor Stacker Reclaimer Device and Method Thereof, of which the following is a specification.

CROSS-REFERENCE AND PRIORITY CLAIM TO RELATED APPLICATION

This Patent Cooperation Treaty application claims priority to and the benefit of United States Provisional patent application entitled "Air Cushion Conveyor Stacker Reclaimer Device and Method Thereof," filed August 29, 2005, on behalf of inventors Kevin Hood, Bengt Nilsson, and Steven Bennett, and having assigned Serial No. 60/712,325.

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates generally to stacker/reclaimer devices and, more specifically, to an air cushion conveyor stacker reclaimer device and a method thereof, wherein air cushion conveyors facilitate cost-effective installation, minimize structural support requirements, reduce maintenance

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requirements, increase worker safety, and diminish potentially disadvantageous environmental impact from materials handling.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Stacker/reclaimer devices are utilized for a variety of bulk material applications such as, for exemplary purposes only, stacking, blending and reclaiming limestone for the cement industry, crushed stone for aggregate processors, coal and/or ore for mining and power operations, general bulk materials for the marine industry, and urea, nitrate and phosphate for fertilizer applications. Automated stacking and reclaiming of stockpiles enables the realization of substantial reductions in operating costs, wherein power consumption, manpower requirements and maintenance costs are minimized.

The complexity of installation requirements, coupled with elaborate facility preparation typically necessary for traditional conveyor belt stacker reclaimers can economically inhibit the feasibility of incorporating such automated technology for some potential users. That is, lengthy infeed belt conveyors, with heavy idlers and machinery components require installation of numerous support structures, and walkways must be constructed coincident therewith in order to facilitate access for required maintenance. In addition to disadvantageous installation expense,

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the support structures require available, dedicated ground space, and the elevated walkways subject workers to potentially dangerous heights.

Likewise, traditional conveyor belt outfeed conveyors often necessitate sophisticated facility preparation, including installation of a large pit area with an elaborate foundation and an underground tunnel. The tunnel is required to enable workers to access the belt idler rollers and operational machinery for necessary ongoing maintenance in order to ensure continued functionality. Thus, because workers must move about in the tunnel, the tunnel construction must be substantially reinforced. Such tunnel requirements not only increase cost, but also disadvantageously place workers in a potentially dangerous underground position.

Further, weighty conveyor belt stacker boom configurations necessitate the incorporation of massive counterweights. These counterweights inherently limit the free space available proximate to the tail end of the stacker boom, potentially decreasing the mobility thereof and also potentially increasing safety risks to those working in close proximity thereto.

In addition to potentially disadvantageous safety and cost issues, traditional belt conveyors can also introduce environmental

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issues. For example, for certain bulk materials, pollutive dust can enter the air during conveyor transport. Noise can also be a disadvantageous factor, wherein machinery and rollers associated with conventional belt conveyors tend to be loud. Moreover, materials can spill over the sides of the conveyor support trough, resulting not only in unsightly environmental debris, but also in potentially costly product loss.

Therefore, it is readily apparent that there is a need for an air cushion conveyor stacker reclaimer device and a method thereof, wherein air cushion conveyors facilitate cost-effective installation, minimize structural support requirements, reduce maintenance requirements, increase worker safety, and diminish potentially disadvantageous environmental impact, thus preventing the above-discussed disadvantages.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Briefly described, in a preferred embodiment, the present invention overcomes the above-mentioned disadvantages and meets the recognized need for such a device by providing an air cushion conveyor stacker reclaimer device and a method thereof, wherein burial of enclosed air cushion outfeed conveyors eliminates the need for costly, reinforced underground tunnels and walkways, wherein overhead suspension of air cushion infeed conveyors

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eliminates the need for construction of raised walkways and costly ground support structures, wherein lightweight air cushion conveyor stacker devices eliminate the need for massive counterweights, and wherein the fully exploited method for stacking and reclaiming bulk materials via enclosed tubular components, stacking boom curtains, and/or domed enclosures essentially eliminates adverse environmental impact.

According to its major aspects and broadly stated, the present invention is an air cushion conveyor stacker reclaimer device and a method thereof, wherein traditional belt conveyors, idler rollers and the machinery associated therewith are replaced with totally enclosed tubes housing air supported belts, and wherein movement is generated by air flow from external ventilators, thereby eliminating the need for conveyor access, both above ground and below, thus simplifying installation, operation, and maintenance procedures.

More specifically, the present invention is a cost-effective method of installation of a stacker reclaimer, and of automated stacking and reclaiming wherein materials are transported via an enclosed tubular air cushion infeed conveyor supported by overhead suspension, wherein the nature of the tubular air cushion conveyor enables a maximization of the possible span of the infeed between the bulk material and the tower. The bulk

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materials are transferred, via the central tower, to an enclosed tubular air cushion conveyor stacker device, wherein the nature of the tubular air cushion conveyor enables a minimization of necessary counterweight. The stacked materials are subsequently reclaimed off of the top of the pile via a rake reclaim system or pushed by a harrow for reclaiming and/or raking into a transfer chute in the pit, wherein the pit foundation is constructed to enable worker access to slew drive machinery and other necessary functional components about the central axis of the foundation, proximate the base of the tower, but an enclosed tubular air cushion outfeed conveyor is buried and, other than the portion below the tower, is otherwise inaccessible. This enclosed burial of the outfeed conveyor dramatically reduces installation complexity and costs over previously known stacker/reclaimer methodologies, wherein no tunnel construction is required, resulting additionally in reduced risk to operators and maintenance personnel by alleviating the need to work in underground tunnels and the risks attendant thereto.

Therefore, a feature and advantage of the present invention is the ability of such a method and device to eliminate the necessity for construction of an outfeed worker access tunnel, thereby reducing installation costs.

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Another feature and advantage of the present invention is the ability of such a method and device to maximize overall efficiency via decreased installation and operational costs.

Another feature and advantage of the present invention is the ability of such a method and device to increase the potential span of the infeed, thereby providing for more site flexibility.

Another feature and advantage of the present invention is the ability of such a method and device to increase the potential diameter of stacker reach, while decreasing the need for counterweight.

Another feature and advantage of the present invention is the ability of such a method and device to minimize installation costs by eliminating the need for extensive above and below ground walkways.

Another feature and advantage of the present invention is the ability of such a method and device to minimize operational costs by eliminating the necessity for traditional belt conveyors, thus decreasing power consumption, wear, maintenance and overall installation and operating costs.

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Another feature and advantage of the present invention is the ability of such a method and device to enable efficient, essentially enclosed, environmentally friendly stacking and reclaiming of bulk materials.

These and other objects, features and advantages of the invention will become more apparent to one skilled in the art from the following description and claims when read in light of the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention will be better understood by reading the Detailed Description of the Preferred and Alternate Embodiments with reference to the accompanying drawing figures, in which like reference numerals denote similar structure and refer to like elements throughout, and in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a prior art stacker reclaimer apparatus, showing an exemplary ground-based infeed support structure and exemplary counterweights;

FIG. 2 is a cross-sectional view of prior art air cushion conveyor tubes, showing two types of belt returns;

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FIG. 3 is an overhead perspective view of an air cushion conveyor stacker reclaimer apparatus, according to the preferred embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 4 is a second side perspective view of the air cushion conveyor stacker reclaimer apparatus of **FIG. 3**;

FIG. 5 is a partial cut-away perspective view of the air cushion conveyor stacker reclaimer apparatus of **FIG. 3**, showing the buried outfeed air cushion conveyor;

FIG. 6A is a cross-sectional schematic view of the air cushion conveyor stacker reclaimer apparatus of **FIG. 3**;

FIG. 6B is a cross-sectional view, taken along line 6B, of the air cushion outfeed conveyor of **FIG. 6A**;

FIG. 7 is a cross-sectional view of an air cushion conveyor stacker reclaimer apparatus according to an alternate embodiment of the present invention, showing a dome-enclosed air cushion conveyor stacker reclaimer; and

FIG. 8 is a partial cut-away perspective view of an air cushion conveyor stacker reclaimer apparatus according to an

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alternate embodiment of the present invention, showing the outfeed air cushion conveyor positioned within a trench.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED AND ALTERNATE EMBODIMENTS

This Patent Cooperation Treaty application claims priority to and the benefit of United States Provisional patent application entitled "Air Cushion Conveyor Stacker Reclaimer Device and Method Thereof," filed August 29, 2005, on behalf of inventors Kevin Hood, Bengt Nilsson, and Steven Bennett, having assigned Serial No. 60/712,325.

In describing the preferred and alternate embodiments of the present invention, as illustrated in the figures and/or described herein, specific terminology is employed for the sake of clarity. The invention, however, is not intended to be limited to the specific terminology so selected, and it is to be understood that each specific element includes all technical equivalents that operate in a similar manner to accomplish similar functions.

To better understand the present system and method of this invention, a rudimentary knowledge of a typical prior-art stacker reclaimer and process is helpful. Referring first to **FIG. 1**, a conventional stacker reclaimer 10 is shown, wherein stacker boom 12 with walkway 13 is supported by upper tower 18, reclaimer

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assembly 14 is supported by main frame 16, and infeed conveyor 20 with walkway 22 is supported by plurality of ground supports 24 and tower 18. Materials are deposited in a pile via stacker boom 12 following receipt from infeed conveyor 20, wherein the traditional system configuration allows independent rotation of stacker boom 12 and reclaimer assembly 14 about a central axis, and wherein reclaimer chain 15 enables movement of the plurality of rakes 17 to reclaim bulk material from a pile. A transfer chute (not shown) is typically positioned to receive loose bulk materials from reclaimer conveyor 29 through an exit chute onto conventional outfeed conveyor 44.

The infeed, stacker, outfeed and other conveyor members of such a traditional configuration rely upon machine driven belts rolling on idlers for transport of bulk materials. The tremendous weight of the traditional belt conveyor system necessitates the reliance upon huge counterweights 30, 32 for boom balance and frequently spaced structural support towers 24 for elevated conveyor positioning. Further, the mechanical components for these belt conveyors require frequent maintenance and the conveyors must be fully accessible, hence the need for coincident construction of associated walkways. In the case of typical infeed conveyors, these walkways are substantially elevated, and the structural support requirements are often elaborate. Likewise, traditional conveyor belt outfeed conveyors often necessitate sophisticated

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facility preparation, including an underground tunnel to enable worker access.

To further facilitate a better understanding of the present system and method of this invention, knowledge of a typical air cushion conveyor structure is also helpful. Referring now to **FIG. 2**, two types of air cushion conveyor structures are shown. Each air cushion conveyor 50 and 52 is essentially an elongated cylindrical tube, defining and enclosing interior compartment 53 with conveyor belt 54 therein. The enclosed nature of air cushion conveyors 50 and 52 enhances the load conveying capacity thereof. Air channels 56 are defined proximate interior compartment 53, wherein conveyor belt 54 rests on a cushion of air supplied by external, low powered ventilators 58. Bulk materials travel on conveyor belt 54 via air flow influence, interacting with simple cable and pulley components (not shown), wherein the nature of continuous conveyor belt 54 results in a return compartment 60 and 62 in which the returning conveyor belt 54 moves via air slide 64 or return idlers 66, respectively.

Referring now to **FIG. 3**, according to the preferred method of the present invention for installation of a stacker reclaimer apparatus, whereby the preferred embodiment of the present invention, air cushion conveyor stacker reclaimer device 100 is installed, in order to practice the preferred method of stacking

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reclaiming, plurality of modular sections 102 are preferably positioned, end to end, in an arrangement extending preferably from a bulk material source to a reclaimer pile, wherein plurality of modular sections 102 are adapted to be secured together to define preferred air cushion conveyor infeed 104.

Preferably, central tower 106 is constructed with first end 107 of air cushion conveyor infeed 104 supported proximate upper tower 108. Second end of air cushion conveyor infeed 104 is preferably positioned proximate a source of bulk materials, wherein the preferred length of air cushion conveyor infeed 104 is between 60 to 1300 feet. Preferably, ground support towers 110, depicted in **FIG. 5**, are positioned at intervals spanning 75 to 250 feet, wherein plurality of suspension wires 112 angularly extend therefrom, supporting portions of air cushion conveyor infeed 104 from above. Preferably, the inclusion of support towers 110, preferably steel, facilitates secure installation of air cushion conveyor infeed 104 at heights up to and exceeding 90 feet above ground level, wherein preferred spans of up to 225 feet can exist between suspension wires 112, also referred to as cable supports.

The foregoing preferred method of installation for preferred air cushion conveyor infeed 104 may be altered to accommodate more or less frequently spaced ground support towers 110 and/or more or less frequently placed suspension wires 112; however, the preferred

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configuration, as described, maximizes support while minimizing required groundspace construction, wherein the preferred configuration of air cushion conveyor infeed 104 is self-supporting in lengths up to 75 feet. Additionally, although it is possible that air cushion conveyor infeed 104 could be shorter than 60 feet or longer than 1300 feet, such preferred length range best facilitates effective and efficient operation thereof.

Central tower 106 preferably supports preferred air cushion conveyor stacker device 114 proximate tower midsection 116, as shown in **FIG. 3**, wherein bulk materials are preferably deposited in a pile via air cushion stacker device 114 following receipt from preferred air cushion conveyor infeed 104, wherein the preferred installation and resulting system configuration of the present invention allows independent rotation of air cushion conveyor stacker device 114 and reclaimer assembly 118 about central tower axis 120, wherein the absence of massive counterweights facilitates maximization of rotational clearance about air cushion conveyor stacker device 114 and reclaimer assembly 118 relative to central tower axis 120. One skilled in the art will recognize that although air cushion conveyor stacker device 114 is depicted as a stacker boom, other types of stackers known in the art may alternately be utilized.

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Preferably, harrow 122 extends upwardly and angularly away from reclaimer assembly 118, as shown in **FIGS. 2-4**, in contact with the face of the pile of bulk materials, wherein the preferred positioning enables pushing and/or raking of materials into a transfer chute (not shown) in pit 124, wherein pit foundation 126 is constructed to enable worker access to slew drive machinery and other necessary functional components about central axis 120 of pit foundation 126, proximate base 128 of central tower 106, as depicted in **FIG. 5**. It is recognized that other types of reclaimer assemblies could be incorporated in lieu of preferred, generally covered reclaimer assembly 118 with harrow 122.

Referring to **FIGS. 6A-7**, in the preferred configuration, reclaimed bulk materials are passed to preferred, enclosed tubular air cushion conveyor outfeed 130 for subsequent transfer. According to the preferred method of installation, the selected installation site is prepared by digging of a trench suitable for receiving tubular air cushion conveyor outfeed 130 therein. Preferably, plurality of modular sections 102 are positioned, end to end, in an arrangement extending preferably from pit foundation 126 to a selected bulk material delivery endpoint, silo, and/or any other type of storage and/or transfer depot. Prior to burial, plurality of modular sections 102 are secured together to define preferred air cushion conveyor outfeed 130. According to the preferred method of installation, no excess space is defined around

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air cushion conveyor outfeed 130, that is, no access tunnel is provided. Access to air cushion conveyor outfeed 130 is preferably available proximate pit foundation 126, but is not necessary therebeyond as the nature of preferred, enclosed air cushion conveyor outfeed 130, with few mechanical parts, requires minimal maintenance.

Thus, complexity and cost of installation is dramatically lowered according to the preferred method of installation of the present invention relative to that of previously known stacker reclaimer configurations, requiring underground tunnels and aerial walkways. Further, the subsequent operating costs are dramatically lowered according to the preferred method of stacking and reclaiming of the present invention, wherein fewer moving parts necessitate less power consumption and require minimal maintenance.

Additionally, the overall enclosed nature of preferred air cushion conveyor stacker reclaimer 100 enhances environmental compatibility. For example, the full utilization of enclosed tubular components reduces operational noise levels and power consumption, along with dusting and spillage frequently associated with the transport of bulk materials via traditional conveyors.

Further, in an alternate embodiment, air cushion conveyor stacker 114 could be adapted with skirt 132, as depicted in **FIG. 5**,

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wherein the escape of bulk materials into the environment could be significantly diminished, or even eliminated.

In another alternate embodiment, as depicted in **FIG. 7**, air cushion conveyor stacker reclaimer apparatus 100 could be enclosed within dome silo 200 for maximized environmental protection, such as for handling of potentially hazardous bulk materials.

To accommodate alternately shaped piles, other known tower, reclaimer, stacker and/or boom configurations could be utilized, wherein the improvement further described herein could be incorporated therewith. For example, more than one air cushion conveyor stacker could be utilized for multiple piles. Also, to reclaim materials from the side, a luffing boom scraper, a portal style reclaimer, a semi-portal reclaimer or a cantilever style reclaimer could be utilized, with a bridge type reclaimer enabling the reclaim of materials from the end face of a pile. Thus, whether circular or linear, whether provided with one chain or a plurality of chains or rake attachments, and irrespective of the facility and application style specifications, any known or anticipated reclaimer assembly may effectively incorporate the invention and improvement described herein.

In still another alternate embodiment, referring to **FIG. 8**, air cushion conveyor outfeed 130 could be enclosed within a pipe,

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concrete trench, or other barrier under the ground, wherein the need to construct a true tunnel could remain alleviated, but structural protection could be provided underground, external to the air cushion conveyor outfeed 130.

In yet still another alternate embodiment, air cushion conveyor infeed 104, air cushion conveyor stacker device 114, and/or air cushion conveyor outfeed 130 could incorporate slider belts in lieu of, or in addition to, air cushion conveyors for transport of materials with minimal mechanical requirements.

Having thus described exemplary embodiments of the present invention, it should be noted by those skilled in the art that the within disclosures are exemplary only, and that various other alternatives, adaptations, and modifications may be made within the scope of the present invention. Accordingly, the present invention is not limited to the specific embodiments illustrated herein, but is limited only by the following claims.

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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An air cushion conveyor stacker reclaimer device, comprising:

an air cushion outfeed conveyor having an enclosed interior compartment housing an air supported conveyor belt, said air cushion outfeed conveyor positioned underground, circumferentially surrounded with and abutting earthen materials;

a reclaimer device;

a stacking conveyor device;

a main tower; and

an infeed conveyor.

2. The air cushion conveyor stacker reclaimer device of Claim 1, wherein said infeed conveyor is an air cushion infeed conveyor having an enclosed interior compartment housing an air supported conveyor belt, said air cushion infeed conveyor suspended above ground.

3. The air cushion conveyor stacker reclaimer device of Claim 2, wherein said air cushion infeed conveyor is supported by at least one ground support and a plurality of suspension cables.

4. The air cushion conveyor stacker reclaimer device of Claim 1, wherein said stacking conveyor device is an air cushion

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stacking conveyor having an enclosed interior compartment housing an air supported conveyor belt, said air cushion stacking conveyor balanced without a counterweight.

5. The air cushion conveyor stacker reclaimer device of Claim 4, further comprising a stacking boom curtain.

6. The air cushion conveyor stacker reclaimer device of Claim 1, wherein further comprising a domed enclosure, wherein said air cushion conveyor stacker reclaimer device resides substantially thereunder.

7. A method of installing a stacker reclaimer device, comprising the steps of:

a) obtaining a plurality of modular air cushion conveyor sections, a central tower, and a reclaimer assembly;

b) assembling a first plurality of modular air cushion conveyor sections to define an infeed conveyor;

c) raising said infeed conveyor above ground, supporting said infeed conveyor via at least one ground support and a plurality of suspension members, positioning a first end of said infeed conveyor proximate a bulk material source and positioning a second end of said infeed conveyor proximate said central tower;

d) assembling a second plurality of modular air cushion

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conveyor sections to define a stacking conveyor;

e) positioning said stacking conveyor in a rotationally and angularly adjustable position relative said central tower, wherein a first end of said stacking conveyor is positioned to receive bulk materials from said infeed conveyor and a second end of said stacking conveyor is positioned to stack the bulk materials;

f) excavating a trench dimensioned to receive a plurality of modular air cushion conveyor sections;

g) assembling a third plurality of modular air cushion conveyor sections to define an outfeed conveyor; and

h) positioning said outfeed conveyor in said trench and burying said outfeed conveyor, wherein a first end of said outfeed conveyor is positioned to receive reclaimed bulk materials from the stack and wherein a second end of said outfeed conveyor is positioned to deliver reclaimed bulk materials to an outpost.

8. An improved method of stacking and reclaiming bulk materials comprising the steps of:

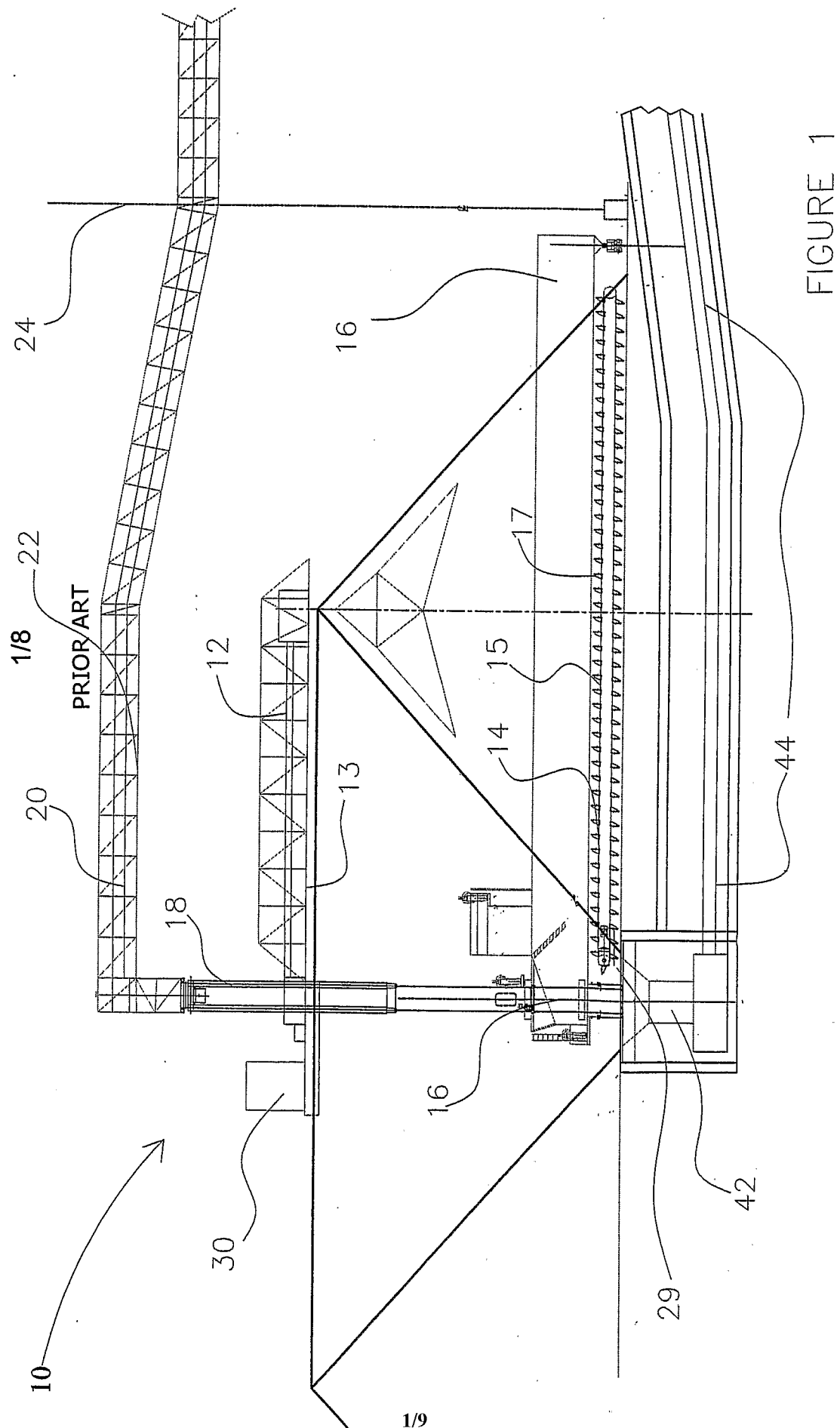
a. obtaining a stacker reclaimer device having a plurality air cushion conveyor components;

b. collecting and transporting bulk materials via an enclosed, suspended air cushion infeed conveyor to an enclosed air cushion stacker conveyor;

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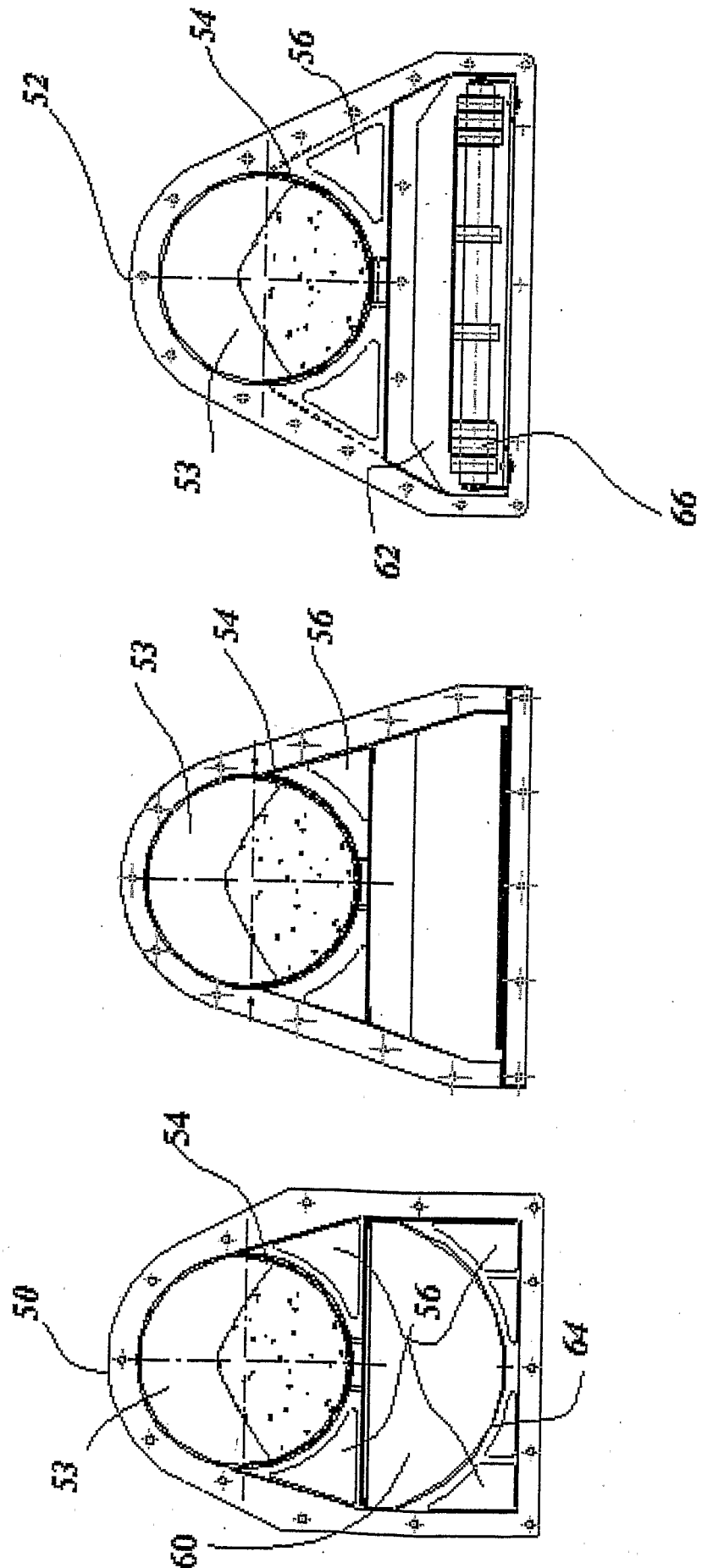
- c. stacking the bulk materials;
- d. reclaiming the bulk materials via a reclaimer assembly;
- e. transferring the reclaimed bulk materials to an enclosed, buried air cushion conveyor outfeed and transporting the bulk materials via said outfeed to a selected endpoint, wherein the bulk materials remain within an enclosed environment during each conveyance stage.



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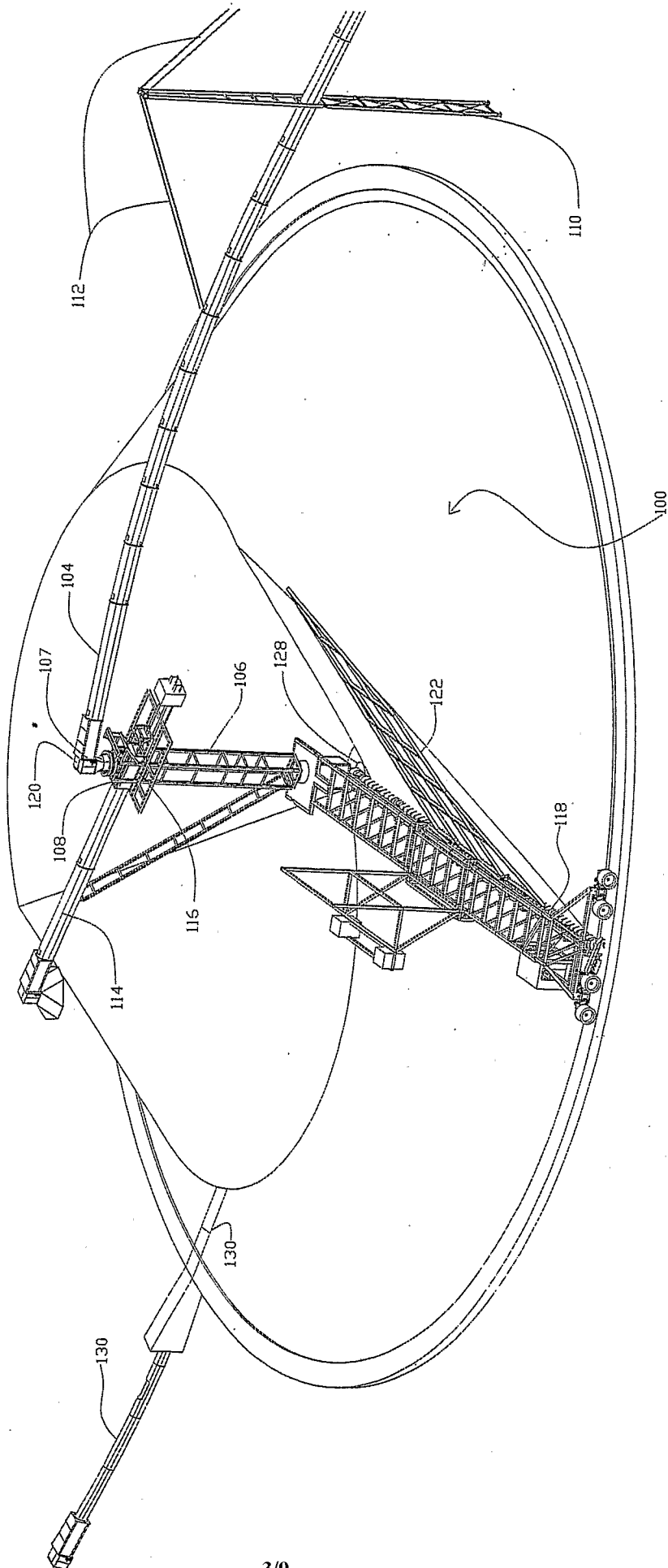
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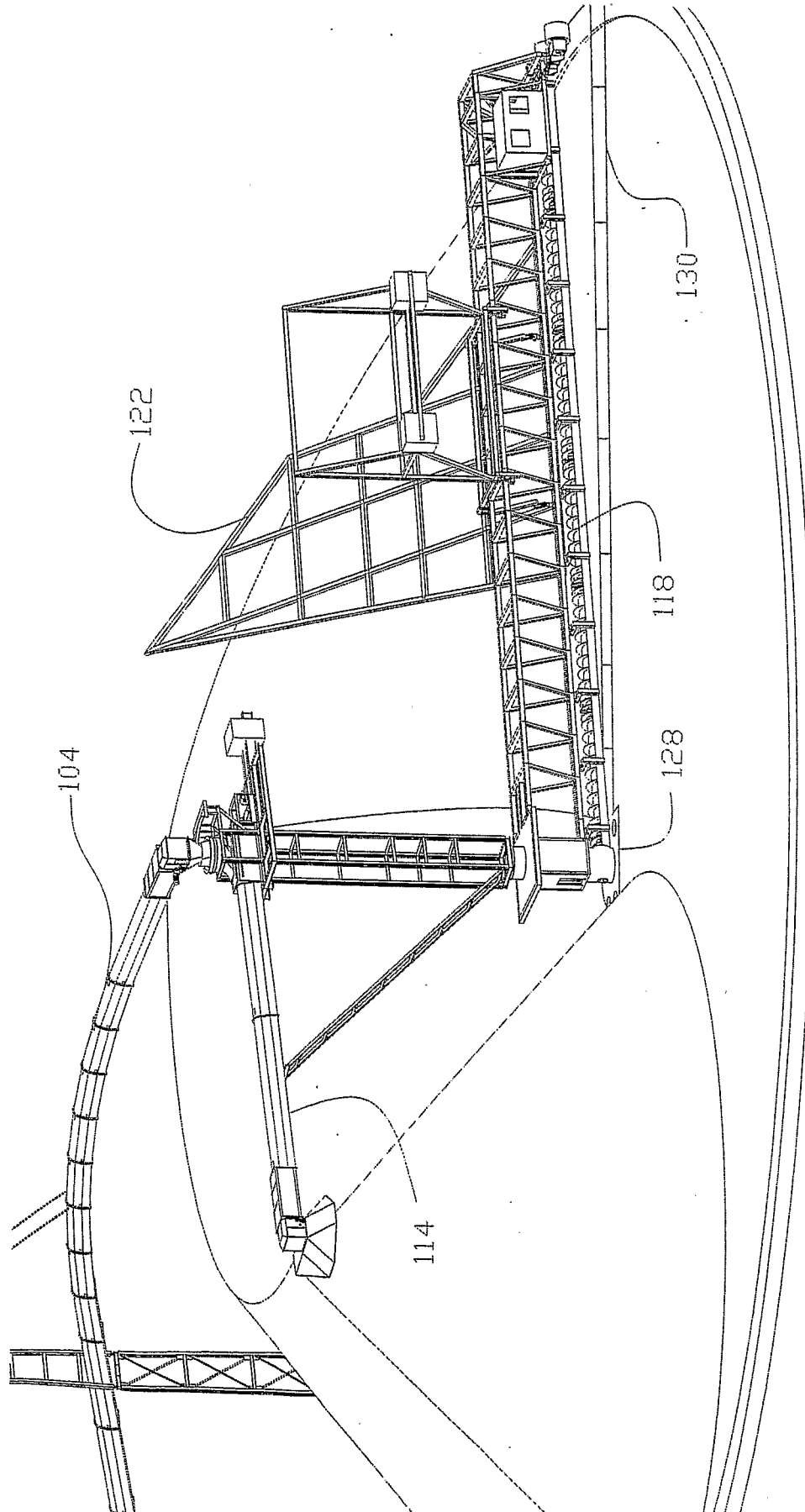
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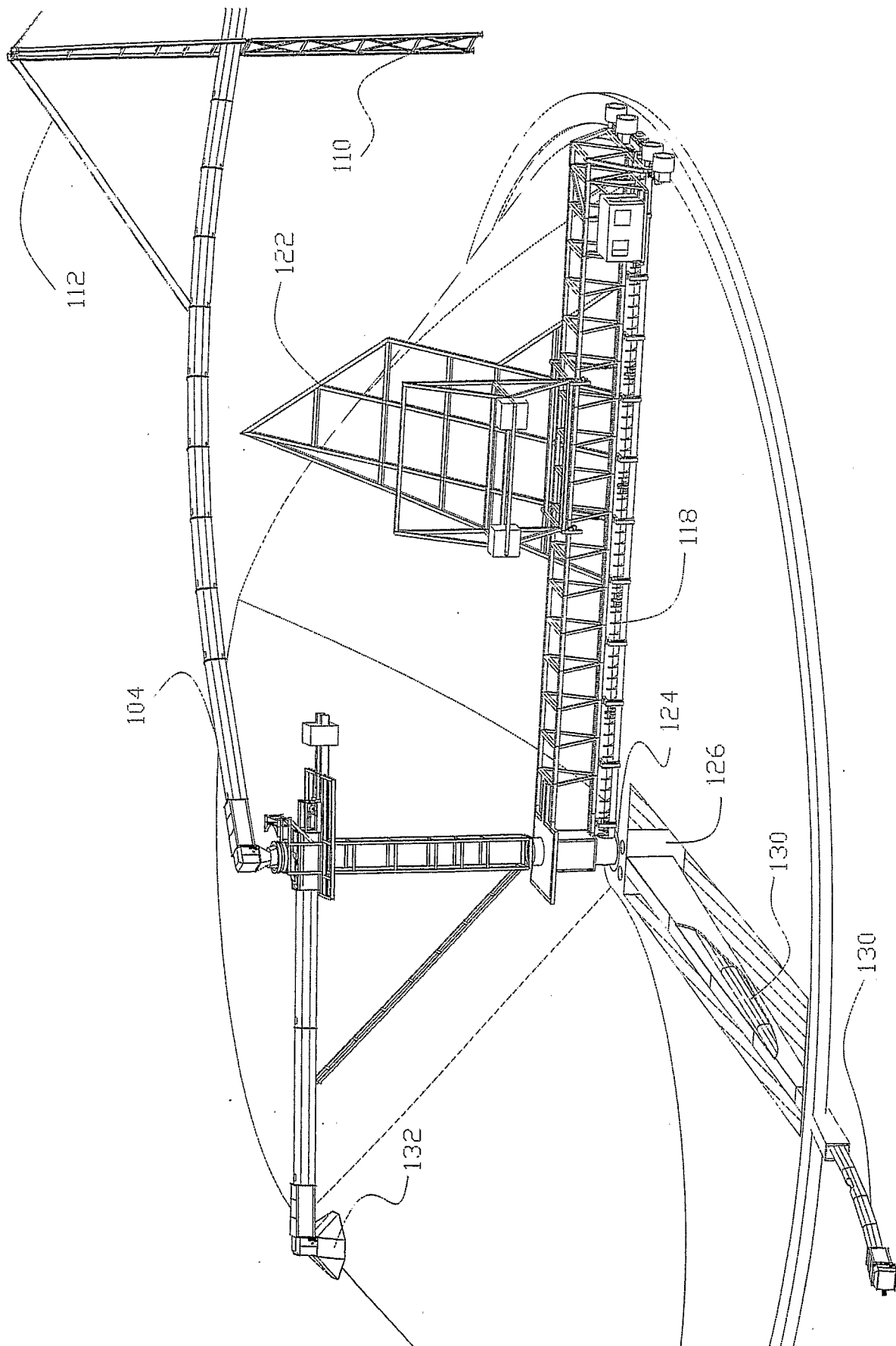
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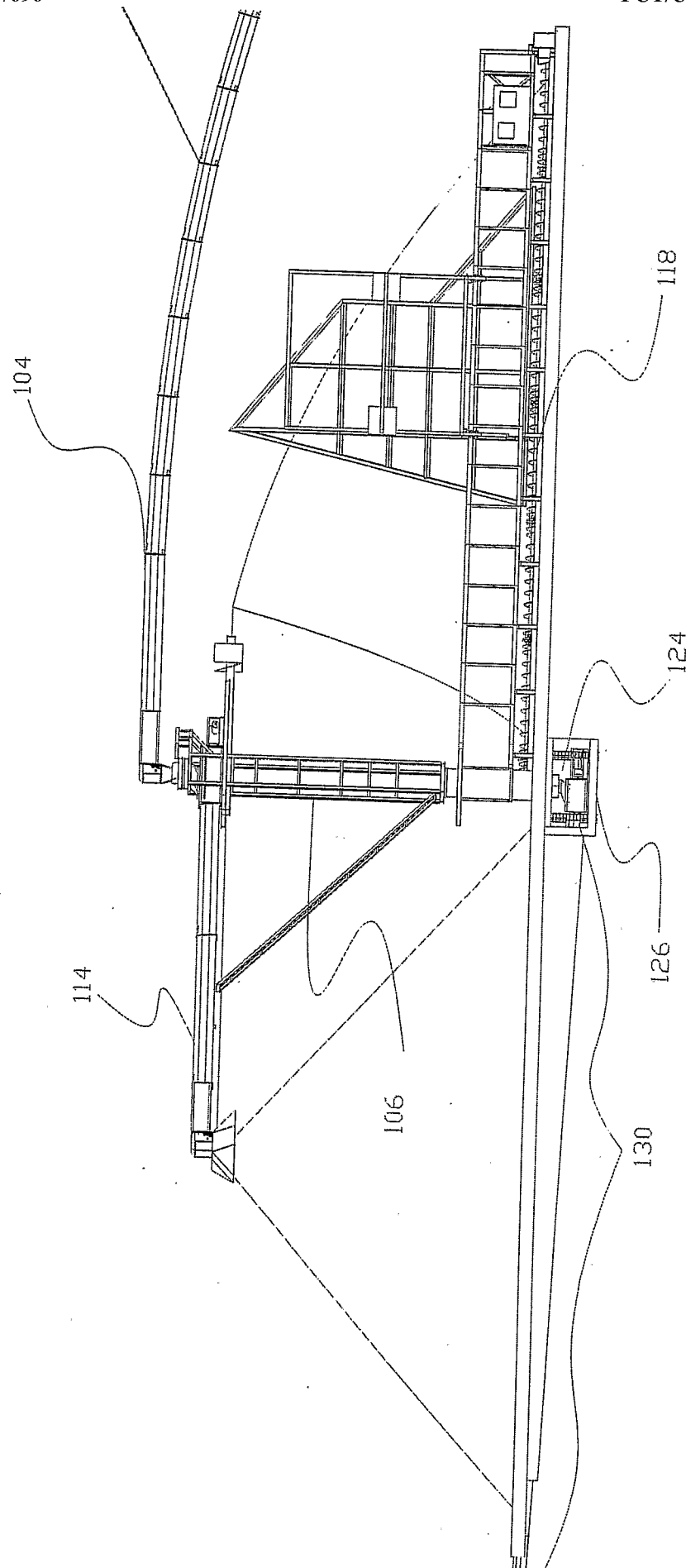
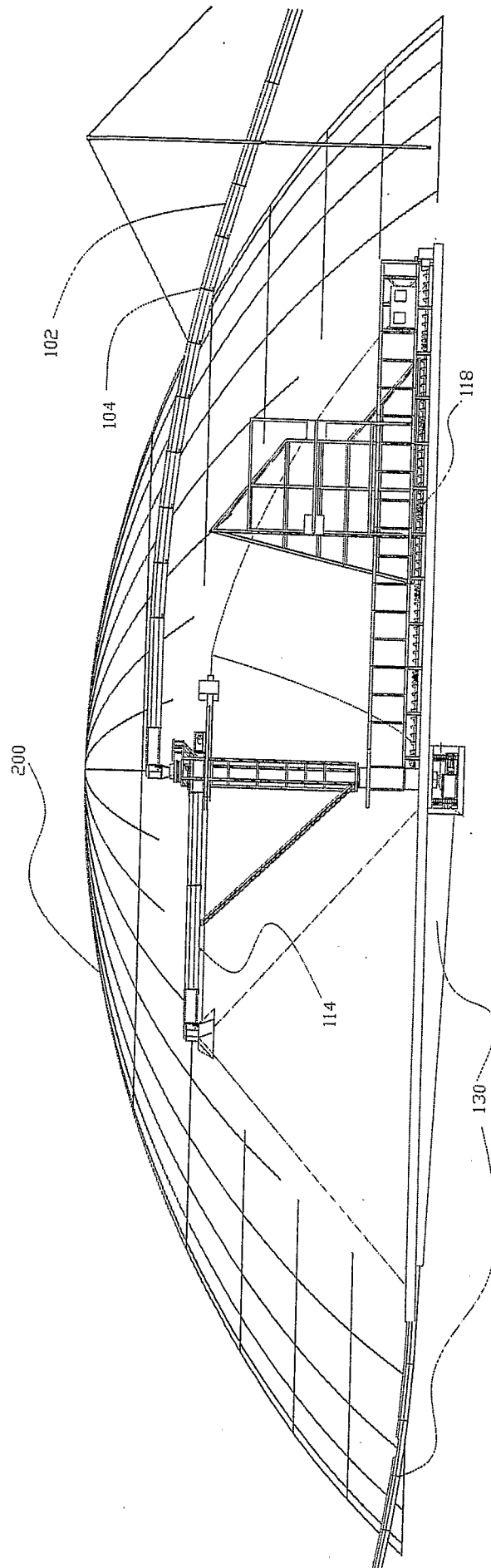


FIGURE 6

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